

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Horne and AZ LEADS³ partners name State School Leaders to the AZ LEADS³ Circle of Honor

PHOENIX (Monday, July 2, 2007)— State schools Superintendent Tom Horne and AZ LEADS³ (Arizona Leaders in Education for the Advancement and Development of Student and School Success) have honored 18 principals as Circle of Honor awardees for their outstanding contribution to their school's student achievement.

"I am very proud of these men and women who have undertaken the vital role of education leadership," Horne stated. "Schools excel because they have excellent leaders. I have made it a priority since taking office in 2003 to ensure that Arizona fosters and develops great leaders for all its schools so that students will have every opportunity to soar academically."

The honorees are:

Amphitheater Public Schools, Monica Nelson, Coronado K-8 School; **Benson USD**, Bryan Bullington, Benson High School; **Catalina Foothills**, Julie Sherrill, Sunrise Drive Elementary School; **Charter Schools**, Stacey Cochran, Center for Educational Excellence, Sheila Stolov, Hermosa Montessori Charter, Mary Ellen Halvorson, Tri-City College Prep High School; **Chino Valley USD**, Grant Turley, Territorial Elementary School; **Deer Valley USD**, Susan P. Clark, Park Meadows Elementary School; **Kyrene School District**, Nancy Branch, Kyrene del Milenio, Ana Gomez del Castillo, Kyrene de los Niños; **Litchfield Elementary District**, Lee Nelson, Scott L. Libby Elementary School; **Paradise Valley USD**, Greg Martin, Sunrise Middle School; **Scottsdale USD**, Jeff Quisberg, Anasazi Elementary School, Margaret Serna, Tavan Elementary School, Anne-Marie Woolsey, Arcadia High School; **Tucson USD**, Joyce Geranis, Collier

Elementary School; Theresa Sonnleitner, Soleng Tom Elementary School;
Washington Elementary District, Dave Anderson, Sahuaro School.

Arizona Leaders in Education for the Advancement and Development of Student and School Success, otherwise known as AZ LEADS³, is one of State Superintendent Tom Horne's initiatives and is partially funded by a grant from The Wallace Foundation. Participants include a statewide consortium of education institutions, business community representatives and education agencies dedicated to developing school leadership and student success.

The State Department of Education and its partners in AZ LEADS³ instituted the Circle of Honor program to recognize approximately the top one percent of principals in kindergarten through 12th grade schools.

The criteria for the Circle of Honor includes: student achievement (Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards – AIMS – scores and achievement profiles of AZ LEARNS); Principal's school commitment – three or more years of experience at the same school; and excellent performance. Additional criteria included the Superintendent's nomination and a 360° survey completed by a portion of staff and parents. Members of AZ LEADS³ then conducted site visits, which included interviews and observations based on leadership standards.

The work performed under the Wallace Grant will provide a statewide leadership system that will institutionalize commitment to leadership development, create incentives for established leaders and link leadership to student learning.

The Incentives & Recognition committee from AZ LEADS³ developed the Circle of Honor program to laud outstanding educational leaders in Arizona. Members include representatives from the Wallace Leadership Project, Grand Canyon University, Mosaica Education, an elementary school principal and the Arizona Department of Education.

The incentives portion of the program publicly recognizes highly accomplished education leaders, providing models of effective practice for others. Circle of Honor inductees will serve as educational leadership mentors over the next two years. As part of the Circle of Honor award, Argosy University is presenting each person with a certificate for a \$5,000 scholarship for the study of educational leadership.

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